gitive Slave Bill

the Committee appointed at Columbus to re-

ceive them, and thousands more are rolling

in. The Ohio State Journal says, the design

was to have the call, with all the names at.

"We have not in the office, nor is there in

accomplishing the demand upon us, short of

sending off to the type founder's for a supply

"It is emphatically a movement of the Pro-

PLE; the call for a Convention has gone forth

as with a shout; the People know what they

are about, this time, and they will be heard

of letter for this especial purpose."

the thing is impossible!"

The Journal adds:

Like a rich blazing gem on the brow of the hill; In the language of stars, I suppose it must say, I'm shining so brightly in honor of May!

And there's the May moon-oh! pale, pearly shell

Your topic is old-how old I can't tell ; But after the great Master-poet, 'twere vain To trespass on any peculiar domain !

But one word I must say, as we part at the gate, And it shall not be long, for it is growing late : Though perfume and roses are coming with June, I shall never forget thy soft guidance, May moon

# FUGITIVE SLAVE BILL.

SPEECH OF HON, CHARLES SUMNER, OF MASSACHUSETTS.

In the Senate of the United States, June 28, 1854. The Senate having under consideration the me tion to refer to the Committee on the Judiciary the Petition from twenty-nine hundred citizens of Massachusetts, praying for the repeal of the Fu-

Mr. SUMNER said : Mr. PRESIDENT: Since I had the honor of addressing the Senate two days ago, various Senators have spoken. Among these, several have alluded to me in terms clearly beyond the sanc-tions of parliamentary debate. Of this I make at least, it were well that it were otherwise. If to them it seems fit, courteous, parliamentary,

#### -" to unpack the heart with words, And fall a cursing, like a very drab,

I will not interfere with the enjoyment which they find in such exposure of themselves. They have certainly given us a taste of their characters. Two of them, the Senator from South Carolina [Mr. BUYLER] who sits immediately before me. and the Senator from Virginia [Mr. Masox] who sits immediately behind me, are not young. Their heads are amply crowned by time. They did not speak from any ebuilition of youth, but from the | to take part, directly or indirectly, in the surren confirmed temper of age. It is melancholy to believe that, in this debate, they showed themselves as they are. It were charitable to believe that they are in reality better than they showed

I think, sir, that I am not the only person on this floor, who, in lately listening to these two self-confident champions of the peculiar fanaticism of the South, was reminded of the striking words ratches the lineaments of wrath, puts on the but be stamped by it with odious peculiarities. The man must be a prodigy who can retain his seemed, in the characteristic fantasy of the mo-ment, a plantation well stocked with slaves, over which the lash of the overseer had free swing. Sir, it gives me no pleasure to say these things. imprecedented assaults and provocations of this

that he should do this thing?" In fitful phrases, the State which he represents. Not many you do not believe that there is any "kennel of

dened for showing simply how a few plain words the Grabe shows what was actually said. though it omits the personal individual appeal

Mr. BUTLER, I would like to ask the Senator would Massachusetts execute the constitutional requirements, and send back to the South the "Mr. Sumnen. Do you ask if I would send back

" Mr. BUTLER. Why, yes. "Mr. Summer. "Is thy servant a dog, that he

should do this thing? To any candid mind, either of these reports renders anything further superfluous. But the Senators who have been so swift in misrepresentation deserve to be exposed, and it shall be done.

Now, sir, I begin by adopting as my guide the ed States. To his course, at that critical time, tion," and "a direct attack upon the sovereignty were opposed the authority of the Supreme Court | of the United States." Massachusetts had rea and his oath to support the Constitution. Here is in the Constitution a clause closely associated his triumphant reply:

"If the opinion of the Supreme Court covers following effect: "The citizens of each State shall the whole ground of this act, it ought not to be entitled to all privileges and immunities of citi-

-ordinate authorities of this Govcrament. The Congress, the Executive, and the this would yet be recognised by South Carolina. Court, must each for itself be guided by its own opinion of the Constitution. Each public officer, who takes an oath to support the Constitution, swears that he will support it as he understands it, and not as it is understood by others. It is as much the duty of the House of Representatives, tion, which may be presented to them for passage or approval, as it is of the supreme judges decision. The authority of the Supreme Court ers, and also by my own refusal to render them must not, therefore, be permitted to control the Congress or the Executive, when acting in their legislative capacities, but to have only such influence as the force of their reasoning may de-

Mark these words, and let them sink into your | State, seamed all over with the rents left by nulminds. "Each public officer, who takes an oath

There's the "star in the sunset," how gleaming and ator from South Carolina? [Here Mr. Sunner Massachusetts, and in honor of freedom, shall I have always said I thought it was in bad taste, ator from South Carolina? [Here Mr. Sumer paused, but there was no reply.] At all events, I accept the rule as just and reasonable; in harmony, too, let me assert, with that liberty which scorns the dogma of passive obedience, and asserts the inestimable right of private judgment, whether in religion or politics. In swearing to support the Constitution at your desk, Mr. President, I did not swear to support it as you understand it. Oh, no, sir. Or as the Senasor from South Carolina understands it, with a kennel of bloodhounds; or, at least, a "dog" in it, "pawing to get free its hinder parts," in pursuit of a slave. No such thing. Sir, I swore to support the Constitution as I understand it; nor more, nor less.

Massachusetts, and in honor of freedom, shall not be left unanswered. Alluding to those days when the brace of Adamses;" when Fancuil Hall sent forth echoes of liberty which brace of Adamses; "when Fancuil Hall sent forth echoes of liberty which resounded even to South Carolina, and the very stones in the streets of Boston rose in mutiny against tyranny, the Senator with the silver-white locks, in the very ecstacy of slavery, broke forth in the ejaculation that Massachusetts was then estated by Otis, Hancock, and "the brace of Adamses;" when Fancuil Hall sent forth echoes of liberty which resounded even to South Carolina, and the very stones in the streets of Boston rose in mutiny against tyranny, the Senator with the silver-white locks, in the very ecstacy of slavery, broke forth in the ejaculation that Massachusetts was then estated by Otis, Hancock, and "the brace of Adamses;" when Fancuil Hall sent forth echoes of liberty which the silver-white locks, in the very ecstacy of slavery, broke forth in the ejaculation that Massachusetts was then estated by Otis, Hancock, and it have never attempted it.

Mr. SUMNER. I beg the Senator's pardon. I always listen to him, and I know whereof I affirm. He has profusely dealt in it. I allude now only to a single occasion. In his speech on the Nesachusetts was then

Now, I will not occupy your time, nor am I so isposed at this moment, nor does the occasion | health-I had almost said, as death and life. require it, by entering upon any minute criticism of the clause in the Constitution touching the surrender of "fugitives from labor." A few ords only are needful. Assuming, sir, in the ce of commanding rules of interpretation, all guage of this clause, paltering in a double sense, y lawful contract, but on which I now express tation of the Senator.
o opinion; assuming, I say, this interpretation,
A benign and brilliant act of her Legislature, no opinion; assuming, I say, this interpretation, so hostile to freedom, and derogatory to the members of the Federal Convention, who solemnly declared that they would not yield any sancion to slavery or admit into the Constitution the idea of property in man; assuming, I repeat, an interpretation which every principle of the common law, claimed by our fathers as their birthright, must disown; admitting, for the moion of the United States has any words, which in any legal intendment, can constrain fugitive the Constitution, this clause does not impose upon me, as a Senator or citizen, any obligation

Sir, as a Senator, I have taken at your desk the oath to support the Constitution, as I under-stand it. And understanding it as I do, I am all enactments by Congress on the subject of fugitive slaves, as a flagrant violation of the Constitution; especially must I oppose the last act as a tyrannical usurpation, kindred in character to the Stamp Act, which our fathers inwhere he says, "The whole commerce between master and slave is a perpetual exercise of the master and end. There is nothing beyond. They are all absorbed in the constant, inflexible, righteous oblidespotism on the one part, and degrading sub-mission on the other. Our children see this, and learn to imitate it; for man is an imitative ani-mal. The parent storms. The child looks on, capacities, or as a simple citizen, especially when same airs in the circle of smaller slaves, gives loose to his worst passions, and, thus nursed, ed-Virginia may differ from me, and the Senator and all, act according to their respective under-standings. For myself, I shall act according to tional obligations, I stand, as upon a living rock, and, to the inquiry, in whatever form addressed edjudgment in Somersett's case, established with-

might ask fearlessly, how many there are, even in this body, if, indeed, there be a single Sepator, who would stoop to any such service? Unill some one rises and openly confesses his will- that time, was not far from one hundred thouresolve, they expect a vain thing.

There was, perhaps, little that fell from these two champions, as the fit was on, which deserves reply. Certainly not the hard words they used to readily and congenially. The veteran Senator from Virginia [Mr. Masox] complained that I repudiation of a service at which every manly bosom must revolt. "Sire, I have found in person who went all the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to Eayonne brave soldiers and good citizens, but the Senator, in the way from Virginia to the way from Virginia Roston in pursuit of a slave-Hunter.

not one executioner," was the noble reply of the Governor of that place to Charles IX of France, and by their right names.

not one executioner," was the noble reply of the emphatic words, that "all men are born free and so derogatory to freedom, that I cannot allow it to pass un... swered. a fellow-man, who, under the inspira-ecdom and the guidance of the north to the service of "dogs!"

the coffic and the chain, that person, whomsoever he may be I call a Stave-Hunter. If the Senator will carry out the offensive clause in the Constiwill give me any term which more precisely de- venerable Senator from South Carolina, I reply to do her duty under the Constitution, as she understands it; and, I doubt not, will ever con- a passage from Graham's History of the United

In quitting this topic, I cannot forbear to retue; and permit me to add, that in this vio- all constitutional obligation, resting upon me as ent sensibility, I recognise a blush mantling the | a Senator or citizen, to aid in making a man a ing, too, [Mr. BUTLER:] he has betrayed his | tions of 1798, assumed to determine its constit

pointedly, and vehemently addressed to me, whether I would join in returning a fellow-man lead this assault upon me, had be not, for the hich seemed to come from the unconscious ex- have passed since an incident occurred at Charlesforth various remarks about "dogs;" and, among | chusetts-which ought to be remembered. The ther things, asked if there was any "dog, in postmaster of that place, acting under a controlbear in mind, through the heady currents of that | his Department at Washington that he had determoment, that, by the false interpretation he has given to the Constitution, he has helped to nurprobation of the outrage. But this is not all The Postmaster General, Mr. Kendall, after pru dently alleging that, as he had not seen the na

the laws, but a higher one to the communities in to destroy the latter, it is patriotism to disregard them. Entertaining these views, I cannot sanc-

Chamber to-day, under its telegraphic head, al Government to the Postmaster of Charleston, states the incident with substantial accuracy, when, for the sake of Slavery, and without any addressed to me by the Senator, and which is acknowledged law of the land; yet the Senator from South Carolina now presumes to denounce ionest interpretation of my constitutional obli

But there is another incident in the history o South Carolina, which, as a loyal son of Massachusetts, I cannot forget, and which rises now it udgment against the venerable Senator. Massachusetts had commissioned a distinguished gen-tleman, of blameless life and eminent professional House, [Hon. SAMUEL HOAR,] to reside at Charleston for a brief period, in order to guard the rights of her free colored citizens, assaile: on arrival there by an inhospitable statute, so gross in its provisions that an eminent character of the United States, Hon. William Johnson, had characterized it as "trampling on the Constituwhite almost as that of the Senator before me. was beset in Charleston by a "respectable" mob. prevented from entering upon his duties, and his expulsion. And yet, sir, the excitable Senator quencies of Massachusetts towards Slave-Hunt-

any "aid or comfort;" he showers questions in volleys, assumes to measure our duties by his understanding, and ejaculates a lecture at Massa understanding, and ejaculates a lecture at Massa chusetts and myself. Sir, before that venerable Senator again does this, let him return to his own State, seamed all over with the rents left by nullification, and first lecture there. Let him look into his own heart, and lecture to himself.

Senator again does this, let him return to his own State, seamed all over with the rents left by nullification, and first lecture there. Let him look into his own heart, and lecture to himself.

Senator again does this, let him return to his own of the Revolution, as compared with his silver-wise locks, to discredit the Northern States. This is a sad chapter of this sorry, upon which I unwillingly dwell, Faithful and the Northern States. This is a sad chapter of the Northern States. The wind provided the Congress that the Northern States. The wind provided the Congress that the Northern States. The Northern States are detailed to the Northern States. The Northern States are detailed to the Northern States are detailed to the Northern States. The Northern States are detailed to the Northern States are detailed to the Northe minds. "Each public officer, who takes an oath to support the Constitution, swears that he will support it as he understands it, and not as it is understood by others." Yes, sir, as he understood by others." Yes, sir, as he understood by others. There are, however, yet other Does any Senator here dissent from Virginia? Does the Senator from Virginia from the first time, duty in t

The Senator opens a page, which I would willingly present. Sir, slavery never flourished in Massachusetts; nor did it ever prevail there at any time, even in early Colonial days, to such a and I wish the Senator had read it before he degree as to be a distinctive feature in her powcaning towards freedom, that in the evasive lan- erful civilization. Her few slaves were merely for a term of years, or for life. If, in point of lar not to wound the feelings of the Northern the words employed can be judicially regarded as justly applicable to fugitive slaves, which, as it was never by sanction of any statute or law of as justly applicable to fugitive slaves, which, as you ought to know, sir, is often most strenuously and conscientiously denied—thus sponging the whole clause out of existence, except as a provision for the return of persons actually bound by lawful contract but a way for the return of persons actually bound by lawful contract but a way for the return of persons actually bound setts. This, of itself, is a response to the impusers of the honorable Senator, he will find that when I

that is past, and such a law for the future as may ufficiently deter all those belonging to us, to have to in such vile and most odious conduct, justly abhorred of all good and just men, do order that the negro interpreter, with others unlawfully taken, be, by the first opportunity, at the charge of the ountry, for the present, sent to his native country of Guinea, and a letter with him of the ndignation of the Court thereabout and justice

The Colony that could issue this noble decree single slave. But a righteous public opinion early and constantly set its face against slavery. As early as 1701 a vote was entered upon the records of Boston to the following effect: "The Rep-resentatives are desired to promote the encouragit came from Boston, my native town. In 1705 a ported into the province; in 1712 the importaion of Indians as servants or slaves was strictly attracted little attention till the beginning of the controversy, which ended in the Revolution; when the rights of the blacks were blended by all true patriots with those of the whites. Sparing all unnecessary details, suffice it to say, that, my personal responsibility, whether I would in its jurisdiction the principle of emancipation; aid, directly or indirectly, in reducing or surrendering a fellow-man to bondage, I reply again, "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this in other places. In 1776, the whole number of blacks, both free and slave, sprinkled thinly over "hardy" Massachusetts, was five thousand two

> Thus, sir, does the venerable Senator err when he presumes to vouch Massachusetts for slavery. and to associate this odious institution with the Mr. ROCKWELL, Will my honorable coleague allow me to send to the Chair, and have

generous Commonwealth in whose behalf I have

the honor to speak.

Mr. SUMNER. I do not know the passage to which my colleague refers, but I welcome any interruption from him.

The Secretary read as follows: "Among other subjects of dispute with the British Government and its officers, was one magnanimous concern for the liberty of her cit-izens and their fellow-colonists. Negro slavery provinces, and the unhappy victims of this yoke were rapidly multiplied by the progressive exest of all the States, contained already fourteen thousand negroes; and in the course of the were imported into South Carolina. In New England, the number of slaves was very insigmane as in some measure to veil from the pub-lic eye the iniquity of their bondage. But, the recent discussions with regard to liberty and the rights of human nature, were calculated to awaken in generous minds a juster impression Governor Bernard's administration, a bill pro-hibitory of all traffic in negroes was passed by the Massachusetts Assembly. Bernard, however, in conformity with his instructions from th

Crown, refused to affirm this law: and thus

opposed himself to the virtue as well as to the

iberty of the people whom he governed. "On three subsequent occasions, laws abolishing the slave trade were passed by the same Assembly during Hutchinson's administration but all were in like manner negatived by the when Britain permitted her merchants annually to make slaves of more than fifty thousand men. participation in this injustice, that her orators poets, and statesmen, loudly celebrate the gento exist on English ground, and the transcend-ent equity of her judicial tribunals in libera-Though Massachusetts was thus prevented from bolishing the slave trade, the relative discusductive of good. A great amelioration became visible in the condition of all the negroes in the province; and most of the proprietors gave librty to their slaves. This just action-for such obtained hitherto scarcely any notice from mankind, while the subsequent and similar conduct brated with warmth and general encomium. So capricious is the distribution of fame, and so such advantage does the reputation of virtue derive from alliance with sectarian spirit and

Mr. SUMNER. I am obliged to my colleague. The extract is in substantial conformity with clear historic truth, which the Senator from outh Carolina, in one of his oratorical effluxes. has impeached. But the venerable Senator errs yet more, if possible, when he attributes to "slaveholding" communities a leading part in those contributions of arms and treasure by which independence was secured. Here are his exact words, as I find them in the Globe, revised

Lexington and Concord, in an issue made by Boston, to whom was an appeal made, and from whom was it answered? The answer is found busque parati. Yes, sir, the independence of to maintain republican liberty, was ism and good faith of slaveholding communi-

faith of slaveholding communities," except in when this Senator presumes to say that American Independence "was won by the arms and treas
Did the occasion require, I might go further,

"hardy." The two characteristics are inconsistent as weakness and strength, as sickness and dealt in such comparisons. dealt in such comparisons.

Mr. BUTLER. Will the Senator allow me?

Mr. SUMNER. Certainly; I yield the floor to the Senator.
Mr. BUTLER. Whenever that speech is read-

commented on it with a good deal of rhetorical enthusiasm-it will be found that I was particu quoted the laws of Massachusetts, particularly one act which I termed the toties quoties act, b A benign and brilliant act of her Legislature, as far back as 1646, shows her sensibility on this subject. A Boston ship had brought home two negroes, seized on the coast of Guinea. Thus spoke Massachusetts:

"The General Court, conceiving themselves "The General Court, conceiving themselves" bound by the first opportunity to bear witness against the heinous and crying sin of man-stealing, also to prescribe such timely redress for and that it had undergone the same change in Massachusetts, for at one time they did not regard this institution of slavery with the same odium that they do at this time. purpose; and I challenge the Senator as an ora-tor of fairness to look at it, and see if it is not so. Mr. SUMNER. Has the Senator done? Mr. BUTLER. I may not be done presently

out that is the purport of that speech. Mr. SUMNER. Will the Senator refer to his own speech? He now admits that, under the was inconsistent with itself, when it allowed its rocky face to be pressed by the footsteps of a sachusetts. And, sir, I did not forget that, in doing this, there was, at the time, an apology which ill-concealed the sting. But let that pass. The Senator is strangely oblivious of the statistical contrasts, which he borrowed from the speech of a member of the other House, and which, at ing the bringing of white servants, and to private the bringing of white servants, and the bringing of white servants are the bringing of white servants and the bringing of white servants are the bringing of white servants and the bringing of white servants are the bringing of white ser arrow at Massachusetts. It is he, then, who is the offender. For myself, sir, I understand the sensibilities of Senators from slaveholding communities, and would not wound them by a superfuous word. Of slavery I speak strongly, as I must; but thus far, even at the expense of my argument, I have avoided the contrasts, founded on details of figures and facts, which are so obvious between the free States and "slaveholding communities;" especially have I shunned all al-usion to South Carolina. But the venerable enator, to whose discretion that State has inrusted its interests here, will not allow me to be

> God forbid that I should do injustice to South Carolina. I know well the gallantry of many of her sons. I know the response which she made to the appeal of Boston for union against the Stamp Act-the fugitive slave act of that day by the pen of Christopher Gadsden. And I reember with sorrow that this patriot was obliged to confess, at the time, her "weakness in having such a number of slaves," though it is to his credit that he recognised slavery as a "crime. (Bancroft's Histery of United States, vol. 5, page 426.) I have no pleasure in dwelling on the hu miliations of South Carolina; I do not desire to expose her sores; I would not lay bare her na

little experience here, that the same claim has been made on this floor; and this seems more furnish such ample and undoubted materials fo its refutation. The question of the comparative tions of the country in the war of the Revolution was brought forward as early as 1790, in the first Congress under the Constitution, in the animated and protracted debate on the assumption of State lebts by the Union. On this occation Fisher orable for his classic eloquence, moved for a call upon the War Department for the number of men mies. This motion, though vehemently opposed was carried by a small majority. Shortly after the Department, at that time under the charge of General Knox. This answer, which is one of the documents of our history, places beyond

Revolutionary				
NORTHERN STATES.	Number of continental troops.	Number of militia.	Total militia & continental troops.	Conjectural estimate of militia.
w Hampshire	12,496	2,093	14,598	3,700
ssachusetts	67,937	15,155	83,092	9,500
ode Island	5,908	4,284	10,192	1,500
nnecticut	32,039	7,792	39,831	3,000
w York	17,781	3,312	21,093	8,750
nnsylvania	25,608	7,357	32,965	2,000
w Jersey	10,727	6,055	16,782	2,500
Total Southern States.	172,496	46,048	218,553	30,950

Delaware 13,912 5,464 19,376 4,000 Virginia 26,672 4,163 30,835 21,880 7,263 2,716 9,969 12,000 5,508 28,000 South Carolina Georgia 2,679 9,930

It should be understood that, at this time, there was but little difference in numbers between the orthern States. By the census of 1790, the Southern had a population of 1,956,354; the Northern had a population of 1,968,455. But notwithstanding this comparative equality of population in the two sections, the North furnished vastly more men than the South. Of continental 1.00ps, the Southern States fur

nished 58,421; the Northern furnished 172,496 making about three men furnished to the conti nental army by the Northern States to one from Of militia, whose services are authenticated b

the War Office, the Southern States furnished 12,719; the Northern furnished 46,048; making nearly four men furnished to the militin by the Northern States to one from the Southern. Of militia, whose services were not authenti cated by the War Office, but are set down in the return as conjectural only, we have 76,810 furnished by the Southern States, and 30,950 furnished by the Northern; making, under this head more than two men furnished by the Southern to one from the Northern. The chief services of the Southern States, it will be observed with a smile

were conjectural only! nental troops, authenticated militia, and conjectural militia, we have 147,940 furnished by the Southern States, while 249,503 were furnished by the Northern; making 100,000 men furnished o the war by the Northern more than the South-

tinental troops, and authenticated militia, and con-jectural militia, South Carolina furnished 33.508. won by the arms and treasure, by the patriot- in the latter sum nearly three men for one fur-

cided at the peace to whom it ?hould belong—a premonitory symptom of the secession proposed in our own day! At last, after the fatal field of Camden, no organized American force was left in this region. The three Southan States—animis Such, sir, is my answer on this head to the indusque parati, according to the vaunt of the enator—had not a single ballation in the field. Senator from South Carolina. If the work which During all this period the mer of Massachusetts I undertook has been done thoroughly, he musi

setts never saw the smoke of in enemy's camp.
At last, by the military gent is and remarkable exertions of General Greene in Northern man, who assumed the command of the Southern army, South Carolina was rescu I from the British power. But the trials of this successful leader eveal, in a striking manner, the weakness of the slaveholding. State which it saved. Some of

"slaveholding" State which is saved. Some of these are graphically present d in his letters. Writing to Governor Reed, of Sennsylvania, under date of 3d May, 1781, he is ys:

"Those whose true interest, it was to have informed Congress and the p ople to the northward of the real state of this ys, have joined in the description and magnified the strength and rethe deception, and magnified 'he strength and resources of this country infinitely above their ability.

Many of those, who adhere L our party, are so fond of pleasure, that they cannot think of ma-king the necessary sacrifices as support the Revolution. There are many good and virtuous people to the southward; but they can lot animate the inhabitants in general, as you can 's the northward."— Gordon's History of American Revolution, vol. 4,

Writing to Colonel Davies, under date of 23d May, 1781, he exposes the act al condition of the

"The animosity between the Whigs and Tories of this State renders their si action truly deplorable. There is not a day p ases but there are more or less who fall a sacrifice to this savage disposition. The Whigs seep determined to ex-tirpate the Tories, and the Tories the Whigs. Some thousands have fallen in this way in this quarter, and the evil rages with more violence than ever. If a stop cannot be soon put to these massacres, the country will be depopulated in a few months more, as neither Whig nor Tory can To Lafayette, General Grovene, under date of

"It is now within a few da b of the time you

of soldiers." \* \* \* " he country is almost laid waste, and the habitants plunder one another with little less than savage fury. We live from hand to mouth and have nothing to subsist on but what we collect with armed parties. In this situation, believe you will way, especially when I ast tre you our whole force fit for duty, that are p perly clothed and properly equipped, does no amount to eight hundred men."—Johnson's L fe of Greene, vol. 1,

Writing to Mr. Varnum, a 1 ember of Congress,

There is a great spirit of enterprise prevailing among the militia of the e Southern States, especially with the voluntee \*. But their mode of going to war is so destru live, that it is the greatest folly in the world to trust the liberties of a people to such a pro arious defence."— ohnson's Life of Greene, vol. : p. 397. Nothing can be more authentic or complete

han this testimony. Here lso is what is said by David Ramsay, an estima de citizen of South rolina, in his history of tl? revolution in that tate, published in 1785, onl a short time after scenes which he describe : While the American so liers lay encamped

[in the low country near Cl arleston,] their tat-tered rags were so complicely worn out, that seven hundred of them we has naked as they were born, excepting a s'iall strip of cloth about their waists, and they were nearly as destitute of meat as of clothing "-Vol. 2, p. 258.

The military weakness of this "slaveholding mmunity" is too apparent. Learn now its occasion; and then join with me in amazement and enforced. The Senator himself is underthat a Senator from South ' arolina should atoute our independence to a, wthing " slavehold voices, all disown his suggetion. The State of South Carolina, by authentichistory, disowns it. Listen, if you please, to peculiar and decisive a "uniform law throughout the United States testimony, under date of Wirch 29, 1779, from the Secret Journal of the Co" tinental Congress: "The committee appointed to take into consideration the circumstances of the Southern States, and the ways and means for the safety and defence, in other respects, the clause on which this bill report, that the State of Sov & Carolina, (as represented by the Delegates of the said State, and Sir, nothing can come out of nothing; and the resented by the Delegates of the said State, and by Mr. Huger, who has conthere at the request Fugitive Slave Bill is, therefore, without any of the Governor of the said State, on purpose to source or origin in the Constitution. It is explain the circumstances thereof,) is UNABLE to make any effectual efforts with militia, by reason main at home, to prevent insurrection among the the enemy. That the state of the country, and the great number of these people among them, expose the inhabitants to great danger, from the endeavors of the enemy to excite wem to revolt or de-

sert."—Vol. 1, p. 105.

Here is South Carolina st retly disclosing her ilitary weakness, and its octasion; thus disownfinds strength and gratula on in slavery rather than in freedom. It was do ing the war that she thus shrived herself, on her nees, in the confessional of the Continental longress. But the same important admission is made in debate, on the floor of Congress, 30 4 March, 1790, some time after the war, by Mr. Bt ke, a Representative

from South Carolina:

"There is not a gentlema; on the floor who is a stranger to the feeble sit ation of our State when we entered into the w r to oppose the British power. We were not only sithout money, without an army or military stores but we were few in number, and likely to be entagled with our domestics, in case the enemy inv ded us."-Annals of Congress, 1789, 1791, vol. 2, age 1484. Similar testimony to the 'eakness engendered

slavery was also borne by Mr. Madison, in debate in Congress:
"Every addition they Licorgia and South Carolina] receive to the number of slaves, tends to weaken them, and rider them less capable of self-defence." - Annals of Congress, vol. I, page

The historian of South Cotolina, Dr. Ramsay, a ntemporary observer of the very scenes which he describes, exposes this w lakness: "The forces under the command of General Provost marched throng the richest settlements of the State, where are the fewest white inhabitants in proportion to the number of slaves. The hapless Afri ans, allured with the hope of freedom, forsook the owners, and repaired in great numbers to the rotal army. They endeavored to recommend themselves to their new masters by discoverif? where their owners had concealed their prop ty, and were assist-ing in carrying it off."—If story of South Caroli-

na, vol. 1, page 312.

And the same candid his brian, describing the vasion of the next year, ? 'ys: "The slaves a second time flocked to the British

And at a still later day, Mr. Justice Johnson, of the Supreme Court of the United States, and citizen of South Carolins in his claborate Life of General Greene, speak ig of negro slaves makes the same admission. He says: makes the same admission. He says:

"But the number disp resed through these silver-white locks, I have replied completely. It is true that others have joined in the cry, which to render it impossible for the citizens to muster

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To render it impossible for the citizens to muste freemen enough to withsten d the pressure of the tempted farther. Some persons are best answer-British arms."- Vol. 2, paj e 472. Surely, sir, this is enough, and more. Thus

from authentic documents we learn the small contributions of men and fae military weakness Carolina, as compared with the Northern States and from the very lips of South Carolina, on four different occasions, speating by a commit-tee; by one of her Represent tives in Congress; by her historian; and by an eminent citizen, we have the confession not only of weakness, bu that this weakness was caused by slavery. And jectural militia, South Carolina furnished 33,508, peachable testimony, we are called to listen, in while Massachusetts furnished 92,592; making the American Senate, to a high-flying boast, from a venerable Senator, that A nerican independ-Mark the language, sir, as emphasized by himself. Surely, the Senator with his silver-white locks, all fresh from the outrage of the Nebraska while 83,092 were furnished by Massachusetts—

Insued by South Carolina. Look, nowever, at the continental troops and the authenticated militia furnished by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it will find only 5,508 furnished by South Carolina, while 83,092 were furnished by Massachusetts—

that carolina. Look, nowever, at the continental troops and the authenticated militial furnished by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it will find only 5,508 furnished by Massachusetts—

that Carolina. Look, nowever, at the continental troops and the authenticated militial furnished by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it that independence was achieved by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it that independence was achieved by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it that independence was achieved by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it that independence was achieved by the two States, and here you baseless as the fabric of a vision, in any way it will find only 5,508 furnished by South Carolina. pill, cannot stand here and proclaim "the good being sizteen times more than by South Carolina, and ern States, which were the peculiar home of much more than by all the Southern States together. slavery, or that it was ach eved by any strength irony. Yes, sir, in irony. And let me add, that Here are facts and figures of which the Senator or influence which came from that noxious when this Senator presumes to say that American ought not to be ignorant. Independence "was won by the arms and treasure of slaveholding communities," attributing to this element any influence deserving praise, and minutely portray the imbecility of the Southern that which I represent; and I cannot allow the condenvation be speake either in increase. not condemnation, he speaks either in irony or in the war of the Revolution, as compared with Senator, with his silver-wise locks, to discredit

were serving their country, but at home, but not blame me. Whatever I undertake, I am apt away from their own borders; for, from the time to do thoroughly. But while thus repelling the away from their own borders; for, from the time of the Declaration of Indepet tence, Massachu- insinuations against Massachusetts, and the assumptions for slavery, I would not unnecessarily touch the sensibilities of that Senator, or of th State which he represents. I cannot forget that, amidst all diversities of opinion, we are bound together by the ties of a common country—that Massachusetts and South Carolina are sister States, and that the concord of sisters ought to prevail between them; but I am constrained to declare, that I have throughout this debate sought in vain any token of that just spirit which, within the sphere of its influence, is calculated to pro mote the concord alike of States and individuals And now, for the present, I part with the ven-erable Senator from South Carolina. In pursuing his inconsistencies, and in exposing them to judgment, I had almost forgotten his associate leader in the wanton and personal assault to which I have been exposed—I mean the veteran Senator fram Virginia, [Mr. Mason,] who is now directly in my cye. With imperious look, and in the style of Sir Forcible Feeble, that Senator has undertaken to call in question my statemen that the Fugitive Slave Bill denied the writ of habeas corpus; and, in doing this, he has assumed a superiority for himself which, permit me to tell him now in this presence, nothing in him can sanction. Sir, I claim little for myself; but shrink in no respect from any comparison with that Senator, veteran though he be. Sitting near him, as has been my fortune since I have been on this floor. I have come to know something of hi conversation, something of his manners, som thing of his attainments, something of his abili-ties, something of his character—aye, sir, and something of his associations; and, while I would not undertake to disparage him in any of these respects, yet I feel that I do not exalt myself unduly-that I do not claim too much for the position which I hold, or the name which I have established, when I openly declare that, as a Sen 9th December, 1780, descrit s the weakness of tor of Massachusetts, and as a man, I place my self at every point in comparison with that hon orable assailant. And to his peremptory asser tion that the Fugitive Slave Bill does not den "It is now within a few da s of the time you to armentioned of being with m. Were you to arrive, you would find a few togged, half-starved the habeas corpus, I oppose my assertion, as per remptory as his own, that it does, and there leave that question.

Mr. President, I welcome the sensibility which

the Senator from Virginia displays at the expo sure of the Fugitive Slave Bill in its true chara ter. He is the author of that enormity. From his brain came forth the soulless monster. He is therefore, its natural guardian. The Senator i I believe, a lawyer. And now, since he has shown a disposition to meet objections to that offspring, he must not stop with the objection founded on the denial of the habeas corpus. It is true, sir, if anything but slavery were in ques tion, such an objection would be fatal; but it is not to be supposed that the partisans of an in-stitution founded on a denial of human rights, can appreciate the proper efficacy of that writ of freedom. Sir, I challenge the Senator to defend progeny; not by assertion, but by reason Let him rally all the ability, learning, and sub tlety, which he can command, and undertake the

Let him answer this objection. The Constitu tion, by an amendment which Samuel Adams hailed as a protection against the usurpations of the National Government, and which Jefferson asserted was our "foundation corner-stone," has plemnly declared that "the powers not delega ted to the United States by the Constitution, no prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people," Stronge words could not be employed to limit the power under the Constitution, and to protect the people from all assumptions of the National Govern the Virginia resolutions of 1798, which the Sen ator is reputed to accept, this limitation of th powers of the National Government is recognised stood, on all questions not affecting the claims of Let him now indicate, if he can, any article, clause, phrase, or word, in the Constitution which gives to Congress any power to establish on the subject of fugitive slaves. Let him now show, if he can, from the records of the Federal open and unmitigated usurpation.

has answered this objection; when he has been able to find in the Constitution a power which is not to be found, and to make us see what is not to be seen, then let him answer another object tion. The Constitution has secured the inesti mable right of trial by jury in "suits at common twenty dollars. Of course, freedom is ceptible of pecuniary valuation, therefore there slave is within this condition. In determining what is meant by "suits at common law," re ourse must be had to the common law itself precisely as we resort to that law in order to de ermine what is meant by trial by jury. Let the Senator, if he be a lawyer, now undertake t cording to the early precedents and writs, well known to the framers of the Constitution, especially to Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Joh Rutledge, of South Carolina, both of whom had studied law at the Temple, as a suit at common Constitution, is attached the trial by jury, as an aseparable incident. Let the Senator undertake

And, sir, when the veteran Senator has formed a power in the Constitution where none exists suit at common law, then let him answer yet another objection. By the judgment of the Su-preme Court of the United States, a claim for a ugitive slave is declared to be a case, under the onstitution, within the judicial power; and this sense and common law. Let the Senator under take to show, if he can, how such an exalted expetty magistrate, appointed not by the President, with the advice and consent of the Senate, but behaviour, but merely during the will of Court; and receiving not a regular salary, but Senator answer this objection, if, in any way, by any twist of learning, logic, or law, he can.

outrageous enactment. Let the author of the Fugitive Slave Bill meet it. He will find me never to be led, even by his example, into an departure from those courtesies of debate which re essential to the harmony of every legislative

has been said in this debate, so far as it concerns me. To the two associate chieftains in this pered by silence; best answered by withholding the

words which leap impulsively to the lips.

And now, turning my back upon these things, let me, for one moment, before I close, dwell on it memorable. On former occasions like this the right of petition has been vehemently assailed, or practically denied. Only two years ago, memorials for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Bill, presented by me, were laid on your table And tee. All is changed now. Senators have condemned the memorial, and sounded the cry of throughout this excited debate, no person bas so completely outraged the spirit of our institutions, the reception of the memorial, and its proper eference. It is true, the remonstrants have been treated with indignity; but the great right of petition—the sword and buckler of the citizen hough discredited by such conduct, has not been denied. Here, sir, is a triumph of Free-

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to a copy for one year.

Money to be forwarded, by mail, at my risk. Large amounts may be remitted in drafts or certificates of deposit.

Washington, D. C., 1854.

### WASHINGTON, D. C.

THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1854.

Any friend of the Era, impressed with the importance of extending its subscription list, and disposed to try his hand at it, is invited to do so. By communicating with us, he can have the list of subscribers at his office. and the times when their subscriptions are expiring. Some of the voluntary agents to whom we have addressed circulars, have responded cordially. Others are silent, as they have a perfect right to be-but who will volunteer to make up their lack? Please look at the terms.

SPEECH OF MR. SUMNER. A great debate took place in the Senate, June 26th and June 28th, on occasion of the presentation of a memorial from Boston for the repeal of the Fugitive Slave Bill. Mr. Sum- Parke, Ripley, and Dearborn. The Journal ner was assailed with great bitterness and says that letters from both Democrats and coarseness, but he soon turned upon his assail- Whigs have been received from every part of ants, with a power that utterly discomfited the State, urging the call of this Convention them. Of the debate on the 26th, we present and that there is a determination on the part on our first page the graphic condensed report of the people to forget all former party disprepared for the associated press in New York. | tinctions in their effort to put the seal of their Mr. Sumner's speech, on the 28th, as revised disapprobation on the principles promulgated by himself, we publish on our second page, by the Pierce State Convention. crowding out a great deal of editorial to make room for it. Its argument is overwhelmingand its personalities are withering, although and Religious Liberty, than Franklin Pierce strictly within the bounds of parliamentary and Jesse D. Bright.

#### HERBERT'S "SAXON SERF."

It gives us sincere pleasure to state that there is now a strong probability that we may Wisconsin, says: be able to resume the publication of the admirable story, THE SAXON SERF, which was commenced last November, and suspended last pers but two-two dailies and eight weeklies winter, owing to "a want of copy" from the author. He has forwarded us, since then, four chapters in continuation, and promises that the whole shall be delivered this month.

### MRS. STOWE ONCE MORE.

Our readers will rejoice to learn that it is the intention of Mrs. HARRIET BEECHER STOWE tion and union of the people in a great Free to furnish a series of contributions for the National Era, under the title of "THE ANDO-VER PORTFOLIO." In a note to us, dated June

"I will as soon as possible do something. I ILLINOIS for such a Convention have yet been will establish a department, and call it, 'The Andover Portfolio, to time, throw such stray leaves of thought as may be wafted to me from the beautiful in- in stern reprobation of his apostacy from the fluences of our scenery and air. In about a original policy of the Government. week or ten days, I will forward you a num-

A story by ALICE CAREY, will be continued

in the next number of the Era. We have also on hand, for the remaining part of this volume, some admirable sketches of Anti-Slavery action, it generously pledged of the Neutral French in Massachusetts, from the Party to surrender its name, and its candia new but ready pen at Cambridge; and dates, provided the People, without distinction translations from the Russian of Paushkin, of Party, would take the right ground, and or the famous Russian poet.

Our readers will see that we hold cut ample inducements to new subscribers.

# THE MOVEMENT IN THE WEST

The Ordinance for the government of "the Northwestern Territory," out of which have been formed the States of Ohio, Indiana, Illie nois, Michigan, and Wisconsin, bears date July 13, 1787. After providing the form of government, it proceeds to enact certain fundamental has been gradually changed, until it has bearticles, specifying the objects in the following | come the great national interest of the coun

"And for extending the fundamental principles of civil and religious liberty, which form the Postmaster, all the functionaries of the Ex the basis whereon these Republics, their laws coutive Government, and a majority in Con and constitutions are erected; to fix and estab- gress, are twisted and corrupted by it into lish those principles as the basis of all laws, constitutions, and governments, which forever hereafter shall be formed in the said territory; not be found in the virtue of the people, a p to provide, also, for the establishment of States | ple who are yet true to the instincts of liber and permanent Governments therein, and for to the immortal principles promulgated by the their admission to a share in the Federal Councils, on an equal footing with the original States, at as early periods as may be consistent display semething of the energy and person with the general interest: It is hereby ordain- ance, and if need be sacrifice, which move ed and declared, that the following articles shall be considered as articles of compact between the original States and the people and what its laws will make it, a nation of slaves States in the said Territory, and forever remain unalterable, unless by common consent."

There are six of these articles of compact, providing solemn guarantees for freedom of conscience, right of trial by jury, habeas corpus, fair representation, and all needful safe- that will is, that Slavery aggression upon the guards for personal rights. The last article rights shall go no further—that there shall ben specially has made the day on which the Ordinance was adopted, worthy of perpetual commemoration : "ARTICLE 6. There shall be neither Slavery

nor involuntary servitude in the said Territory, otherwise than in punishment of crime, whereof the party shall have been duly convicted: Provided, always, that any person escaping into servants who have so shamelessly betray the same, from whom labor or service is The Territory organized under this compact

was then a wilderness; but, in the course of half a century, it was formed into five powerful States, comprising an aggregate area of two suitable expression in a Convention springer hundred and twenty-seven thousand square miles, and a total population, in 1850, of four political organization; and that if such a mor and a half millions, all freemen, maintaining free-labor institutions, and nobly illustrating Convention, and shall contemplate an efficient their beneficence and wisdom. The policy which has given these free States

to the Union, having been repudiated and trampled upon by the Slave Power and its 22d of February last, and that we commit the instruments, the Administration and the so-called Democrats at the North and West who nine, to be appointed by the Convention to care sustain it, the People of those States severally ry the above design into execution. propose to hold State Conventions on the 13th day of July ensuing, to commemorate the pas. for Michigan, is to meet on the 6th of July sage of the Ordinance of 1787, and confer to- We could wish it had been appointed for the gether on the best measures for punishing 13th. those who have dishonored and betrayed the IF At New York, on Thursday, the steam- fundamental Principles of Civil and Religious boat Buffalo, lying at her wharf on the North Liberty which it establishes, and for bringing the mysterious box sent to the Marine Hospi river, sunk to her upper deck, having on board back the Federal Government to the doctrines tal, at Cincinnati, are both dead. A fellow

through their delegates on the 13th.
"Take, for instance, a call returned from one locality in Stark county. The signers stand Free-Soilers - - -Whigs - - -"Another comes from Lucas county, with the signers designated as follows: Hunker Democrats -Free Soil do - -Hunker Whigs - - 28 Free Soil do

In Indiana, the State Journal of the 19th contains the following call: "A majority of the recent Democratic Convention having adopted resolutions setting forth a platform of principles to which we believe s majority of the people of this State are opposed we therefore call upon all such opponents, whatever party, to meet at Indianapolis on the

Abolition Independents - 5-83

13th day of July next, at 10 o'clock A. M. to adopt such measures in relation thereto as the may deem proper." This notice is subscribed by the names of some sixty or seventy citizens, including a large number of Democrats, of the counties of Floyd

The People seem to think it of more importance to sustain the great Principle of Civil

The call for a State Mass Convention in Wisconsin has been issued but a short time, but the quick response indicates the temper of the People. The Free Democrat, of Milwaukie, "All the Free Democratic presses-three

dailies and seven weeklies; all the Whig pa and two Democratic papers—the Watertown Register and Monroe Sentinel—have responde to the eall for a Mass State Convention of the People, at Madison, on the 13th of July. The remaining two Whig papers—the Lancaste Herald and the Kenosha Tribune—we doub not will do so, but we have not received their issues since the call was published. We think we may say that the desire for such a Converdom Party, is cordial and earnest among the Whigs and Free Democrats, and a large portion of those who have formerly acted with the

old Democratic party." We are not aware that the arrangements in in which I will, from time perfected. No time should be lost. From the State of Douglas especially let a voice go forth

> The Mass Convention, called to meet at Kalamazoo, Mich., on the 21st inst., by the Independent Democratic Central Committee, has been held, and its proceedings are before us. The most earnest and liberal spirit pervaded at its counsels. While asserting the true principles ganize for efficient operations. The literal press of the State, not connected with the ladependent Democratic organizations, speaks in praise of its wise and conciliating policy. We copy the following from the series of reso-

lutions adopted: "Resolved, That in the recent passage of the bill for the organization of the Territories Nebraska and Kansas, we see the crowning act of a series of aggressions, by which the se tional and exceptional character of Slavery try, for the protection of which every other in terest must be sacrificed; and its power has become so potent, that from the President !

solute subjection to its insulting demands "Resolved, That evils so great as these mand a remedy; and that if that remedy or fathers of the Constitution-a people who joy the blessings of a Government they esta lished, and a people who are yet willing the patriots of '76 to the accomplishmen their great work, then the days of the lie are numbered, and it must soon

" Resolved. That we do not and will not d spair; that we believe the people of this Stat are ready to respond to the call of their country in this emergency; that they are ready, irre spective of all past political preferences, to de clare in an unmistakable tone their will; and compromise with Slavery-that there shall b no more slave States-that there shall be no slave Territory-that the Fagitive Slave Law shall be repealed—that the abominations of Sl very shall no further be perpetrated under the sanctions of the Federal Constitution-and the from every place of official power the pul their trust, and by putting in their places m

igan rejoice to behold the indications of popul lar sentiments furnished by this Convention they are confident that the deeply arouse feeling of the masses of this State will seek from themselves, irrespective of every exist ment shall be animated and guided by the principles expressed in the resolutions of this organization to give effect to our own principle in this State, we shall willingly surrender of distinctive organization, and with it the tick

It would seem that the General Convention

Allison, who were injured by the explosion of